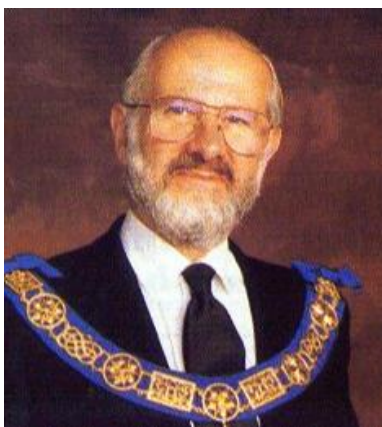


Password

Spring 2005

PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER TO RETIRE

The Provincial Grand Master for Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, RW Bro Nicolas Hart has decided to retire on 30 June 2005. His successor is to be VW Bro Barrie Hall, presently the Deputy Provincial Grand Master whose appointment was announced at the March Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.



RW Bro Hart, who was installed on 7 October 1997, spoke about the need for more openness in his first address to Provincial Grand Lodge. He went on to say, "I believe that in order to make progress, let alone survive, we must change, but I also believe that the change must be gradual and careful". True to his word, the Provincial Grand Master encouraged us all to play a full part in our own communities and not to be afraid to acknowledge our membership of the Craft with pride.

Looking back at his tenure of office, the Provincial Grand Master must be pleased that the Province continues in very good heart with 3 new lodges being consecrated - Webb Ellis, Grand Junction and the most recent, the Graham Milton Lodge for motorcyclists (pictured below!), together with a thriving membership clearly enjoying their Freemasonry. The major fund-raising event during his time in office was, of course, the 2002 Festival in favour of the Grand Charity which he recalls elsewhere in "Password". In the summer of the same year, the Provincial Grand Master played a very full part in the Freemasonry in the Community week at many events taking part across the Province, including an exhibition tent at the East of England Country Show.

As part of his campaign on openness, the Provincial Grand Master set up the Communications Committee to help in publicising the Craft and the events that we host and support. Editorial responsibility for producing the "Password" and inviting local media to report on our activities were also entrusted to the new Committee. In retrospect, it was a brave decision to "let the Committee loose" and it says much about his trust in the brethren of his Province that he was willing to place his confidence in them.

The PGM was astute enough to realise that changes in society were affecting Freemasonry and that we needed to reflect those changes in how we support our members. To that end, with the help of VW Bro Barrie Hall and his small committee, the Mentoring Scheme was produced and commended to all lodges in the Province.

In his busy schedule, the Provincial Grand Master also managed to find time to be a member of the editorial board of new MQ magazine and to contribute his financial expertise as part of the working party reviewing the Festival system.

As part of his busy schedule, he has spent literally thousands of hours in dedicated service to Freemasonry and has still found time to be an enthusiastic member of the Holy Royal Arch, Mark, Royal Ark Mariner, Royal and Select Masters, Rose Croix, Knights Templar and the Royal Order of Scotland. His membership of these degrees has cemented the good relationship with the Heads of Other Orders - a relationship that is widely envied in many other Provinces. This led to the publication of a booklet about Other Orders that was made available to all brethren in the Province.

Although it is a great honour to be a Provincial Grand Master, it carries with it a great weight of responsibilities, not the least of which is to support and encourage all Lodge members by regular visits. Those brethren who have met him personally, and that includes most of the members of the Province, will have found him "easy of address, steady and firm in principle and willing and able to undertake the management of the work". What more could we ask of our Provincial Grand Master? - he has been tireless in his inspired leadership and his work for the Province as well as in his numerous visits to other Provinces.

His last Provincial Grand Lodge as Provincial Grand Master, on 19 May 2005, will be a wonderful opportunity for the Province to say a heartfelt thank you to RW Bro Nic. - however before then, the editorial team at Password hope that all the brethren will join with them in expressing their appreciation for all his efforts over the past 8 years and wish him and Val a healthy and happy retirement.

New talent and a fresh approach encouraged by PGM (see page 2)

PROVINCIAL NEWS

From the Provincial Grand Master

I expect that you will have read of my decision to retire after 8 years in office on 30th June this year. I did not take this decision lightly, but after careful thought and consideration for the future of the Province. Although I could carry on for another 3 years, I consider that we have a fine team of leaders in the Province, and I am anxious that new talent and a fresh approach should be encouraged.

My period in office has been a very exciting time. Shortly after my Installation in 1997, the Province celebrated its Bi-Centenary, and of course, the highlight came in 2002, when we hosted the Festival for the Grand Charity raising just over £2million. I was privileged to be present at both the Installation of the Pro Grand Master, the Marquess of Northampton in 2001, and in 2003, the Consecration of the new Metropolitan Grand Lodge, both very historic events.

I think that probably more changes have taken place in masonry during my time in office, than in any other comparable period. Openness has of course, been the predominant policy, the most evident examples being the many Open Events throughout the Province, the Initiates' Parties, the 'Teddies for Loving Care' scheme, and the annual Carol Service in Peterborough Cathedral, which has given me, and I am sure many of us, the greatest pleasure.

'Freemasonry in the Community' week in 2002, was the pivotal event in our attitudes, and I am sure that the gradual increase in openness has given us all greater confidence when talking about Freemasonry to our non Masonic friends and acquaintances. We are now able to tell the public much more about our great organisation, and the tremendous pleasure we derive from it, as well as its great qualities and achievements. And for those of us who wish to wear it, the new Provincial Tie, produced in conjunction with the Royal Arch Province, has helped us to demonstrate our membership more publicly.

For myself, I have enjoyed the immense privilege of leading this wonderful Province, and I have made many, many, friends, both here and further afield. Our achievements have not been mine alone, but have come from the wonderful teamwork so willingly given by so many skilled and dedicated members. I owe them all a tremendous debt of gratitude, and I thank them wholeheartedly. And so, the Province now looks forward to the Installation of a new Provincial Grand Master early next season. I am delighted that the MW the Grand Master has appointed VW Bro Barrie Hall to succeed me. He will make an excellent leader, and he has my fullest support. I am sure that we all wish him the greatest success and happiness in his important role.

Val and I thank you all for your very generous support and kindness over the past 8 years, and we both look forward to continue meeting you in the years ahead.

TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF TOPS £77,000

I am sure that it will not surprise any reader of Password to hear that, as soon as the news broke, Freemasonry reacted swiftly in a most positive way in response to the appeal for help in providing aid for victims of the tsunami floods in the Indian Ocean.

Almost immediately RW Bro Raymond Lye, the President of the Grand Charity, authorised £100,000, which is the limit of his authority as President to respond to a contingency, but he added that he will be meeting shortly with members of the Council of the Grand Charity and fully expects to receive authority to make a more substantial donation or donations.

Locally the Dep PGM, VW Bro Barrie Hall, arranged for the Provincial Grand Charity to receive donations from Lodges specifically earmarked in support of the appeal and RW Bro Roy Bradley, the PGM of the Northants and Hunts Mark Province, authorised the Provincial Charity Steward to hand over an immediate payment of £2500 to the Disaster Emergency Committee

In starting the Appeal, VW Bro Barrie said

"I am delighted to hear that, at their Christmas meeting, on 29 December 2004, Kingsley Lodge No. 2431 made such a wonderful start to the Appeal with a donation of over £600 and it is hoped that other Lodges will feel able to be as generous".

This was the first of what then became a generous response from the Brethren of the Province and other donations have been promised to date from some 80 Lodges and 15 Chapters and other Orders.

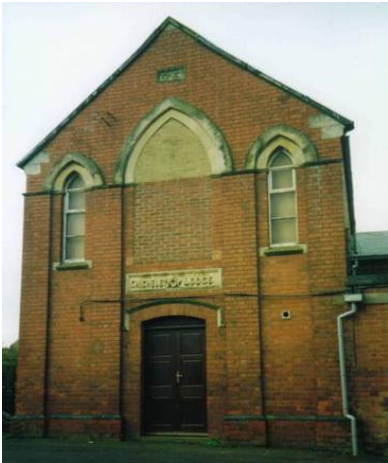
A full list of those who have contributed to date can be seen on the Provincial Website at <http://www.northants-huntsmaons.org.uk/Tsunami.htm>



The PGM and Dep PGM were delighted to hand over a cheque for £77,252.38 to Edith Wesley the Senior Services Manager for the British Red Cross. Paul Anticoni, Head of International Aid at the British Red Cross said, "This is a phenomenally generous donation, and we'd like to thank everyone who has donated".

A TO Z OF MASONIC CENTRES

Thrapston



Chicheley Lodge was granted its Warrant on 26th October 1852. The first meeting was held on 22nd November 1852, and was consecrated in due form a week later on the 29th November 1852. The original number of the Lodge was 883, and was changed to 607 in 1863, and is the only Lodge in the Province to meet on the Monday nearest the Full Moon. The Lodge was probably named after Henry Chichele who eventually became the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1414, and whose family came from Higham Ferrers.

The Festive Board is held at the Thrapston Bowls Club in Market Road opposite Hortons Lane, which has car parking facilities.

The Masonic Rooms are home to 3 Craft Lodges, Chapter, Mark Master Masons, and Royal Ark Mariners.

How To Get There

Approaching from the West leave the A14 (J12) at the Corby turn (A6116) (Blue Arrows) then turn right at the roundabout up the Kettering Road Signposted Islip & Thrapston, Go through the traffic lights, over the river bridge and turn right at the mini roundabout. Take the 1st left up Market Road and the Lodge building is on Hortons Lane, on the left. From the other direction head for the Town Centre from the A14 (J13) roundabout (Red Arrows) on to the A605, turn up the 1st left, Huntingdon Road, and take the 2nd left down Market Road, the Lodge building is in Hortons Lane which is the 3rd turning on the right. Parking is available on Market Road or in the Bowls Club, opposite.



Freemasons' Hall in Northampton opens in fine style

After an extensive refurbishment, the Provincial Grand Master, RW.Bro Nicolas Hart, opened the Freemasons' Hall in Northampton in fine style. The grand opening took place with a Ball in early September 2004 during which the Provincial Grand Master praised all those involved in the work and congratulated everyone on the vast improvement to the Centre. Below is W Bro Ray Price of the Lodge of St. George No.5978, who was the project leader, receiving a special presentation from the Provincial Grand Master.

Shortly after the opening Ball, a Sunday Lunch and Proms Concert was organised to help raise funds for the refurbishment. Among the 200 attending was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Barry Hall and both Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The Band "Top Brass" provided the concert, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all attending. All Band members gave their time free, and as a gesture for their wonderful performance £500 from the funds raised was given to them for a Charity of their choice. They immediately presented this to the Provincial Grand Charity, and as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Barry Hall, Chairman of the Provincial Grand Charity was present; he received the cheque with grateful thanks.



Have You Seen It Or Maybe Even Borrowed It?

Ailwyn Lodge are hoping that somewhere in the Province there may be a Brother who can help them in the case of a missing lectern. Any ideas on its whereabouts contact their Secretary on 01487 822843.

50 years as a member of the Lodge of St. George No 5978

On Saturday 6th November a party from the lodge of St George made a special visit to Lord Harris Court in Sindlesham. W Bro James Avery (Worshipful Master) and his wife Jane accompanied by W Bro Bernard Winkworth, W Bro Stuart and Joy Roblin, W Bro Kevin and Carole Elliott visited Bro Geoff Macey.



The occasion marked the remarkable achievement of Bro Geoff's 50th year in the Lodge of St George and W Bro James was honoured to be able to make the presentation of a Jubilee certificate along with W Bro Bernard.

Bro Geoff has now received two such certificates, his first being from the Cyclist lodge in which he was initiated on the 8th July 1933. This was a most emotional and joyous occasion for Bro Geoff and all of those in attendance felt a deep sense of honour in being able to spend time in the company of such an inspirational person. The Assistant Grand master, RW Bro David Kenneth Williamson happened to be visiting Lord Harris Court and kindly took time from his visit to join the presentation, wishing Bro Geoff congratulations upon this great achievement which provided a splendid addition to the day.

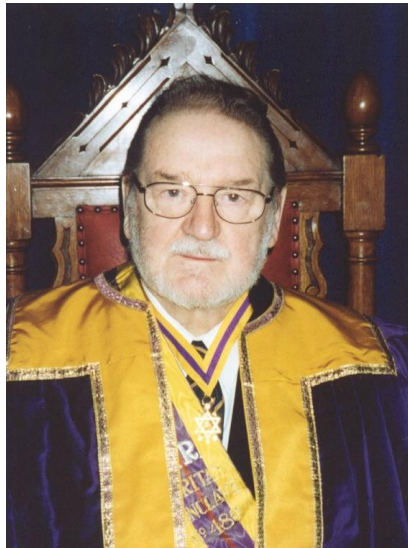
Keep your Information Officer informed of any planned events

OTHER ORDERS

Consecration of a New O.S.M. Conclave at Rushden

A new Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor or Brotherhood of David and Jonathan, has been founded at Rushden. Called 'Caritas' - or more familiarly 'Charity' Conclave - it is the second of the Order to be founded in the Masonic Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire.

The Ceremony of Consecration was conducted by the Grand Supreme Ruler of the Province of the East Midlands, Rt. Worthy Brother Bryan Bernard Wills who will be known to many brethren through his interest in other additional degrees and orders in this and other Masonic provinces. At the subsequent Installation a well-known Northamptonshire mason, Worthy Bro Bob Meanwell, was installed in the Chair as first Supreme Ruler by Worthy Brother Anthony Parkinson, the Deputy Provincial Supreme Ruler. The accompanying picture shows the newly installed Supreme Ruler in the regalia of his office.



The sole qualification for membership is that of being a Master Mason in good standing in a Craft lodge.

Any brother seeking further information about the order should contact the Secretary, Bro Bruce Meech at 01536 393714. He will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Grand Mark Ball



On Saturday 30th October 2004 a Grand Ball was held at the Ellindon Masonic Centre, Peterborough.

A Hundred and Sixty-Six Mark Masons,

family and friends attended and the event resulted in a fantastic £4,000 being raised towards the 2010 Festival for the Mark Benevolent Fund.

The Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Degree, RW Bro Roy Bradley thanked the organising committee for arranging the event, and all for their support.

Such was the success that a similar event is already being planned for Saturday 29th October 2005, this time at The Freemasons' Hall in Northampton when it is hoped that even more Brethren will support the event.

New Principals Chairs for The Chapter Room at the Peterborough

Three new handcrafted Principals Chairs were installed in the Royal Arch Chapter Temple at the Peterborough Masonic Centre. Two were commissioned by St. Peters Chapter No 442 in memory of the late E Comp S L (Lee) Hinsby PPrGScN. On learning of this members of Gildenburg Chapter No. 2533 decided that they would complete the set and had the other Principals Chair made in memory of one of their members, Companion David Sayers who, like EComp Hinsby, had bequeathed a sum of money to his Chapter.



Whilst the chairs remain the property of the St. Peters and Gildenburg Chapters, it is intended that they should remain in the Peterborough Chapter Temple for the admiration and use of future generations of Royal Arch Masons as a permanent memorial to Companions Lee and Sayer.

Provincial Grand Chapter

The next meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter will take place at the Masonic Centre in St Georges Avenue Northampton on Thursday 23rd June when Companions will no doubt be interested to hear about progress being made in implementation of the recent changes to the ceremonies. Brethren yet to join are reminded that Masonic experience is incomplete without exaltation into the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch, for it is the completion of Pure Ancient Masonry.

Thomas à Becket Chapter Chapter Rose Croix No. 155

A most memorable meeting of the Thomas à Becket Chapter Rose Croix was held in Northampton on Tuesday 14th December attended by VP Bro A J Englefield 33° Lieutenant Grand Commander, V Ill Bro Revd A W Avery 33° Inspector General and V Ill Bro W B Hall 33° Past Inspector General. They were there for the presentation by the Lieutenant Grand Commander of a Jubilee Certificate for 50 years in Rose Croix to Ill Bro R A Palmer 32°. V Ill Bro W B Hall 33° Past Inspector General surprised the gathering by announcing that Ill Bro Mike Richards 31° had received a telephone call from an Ill Bro John White of Venerable Bede Chapter Rose Croix No 305 in Durham advising that a Sovereigns' Collar belonging to the Thomas à Becket Chapter was being offered for sale on the e-bay Web site. Research revealed that it had originally been presented to the Chapter on 9th May 1906 and was last worn by E&P Bro W M Bree on Tuesday 15th September 1914 (6 weeks after the start of the Great War). Its whereabouts from then to now is a complete mystery. In fact later research of the Minute Books show that E&P Bro Bree became ill during his Sovereignty and was thus unable to enthrone his successor; he never attended the chapter again. It is marvellous that it has remained in excellent condition and in its original state. Ill Bro Roger Wood 30° paid £50 to obtain it and subsequently discovered that it had been recovered from a local recycling site. So 80 years on, just in time for their Centenary, the V Ill. Bro W B Hall 33° Past Inspector General was able to present it back to the Chapter in all its splendour and it will in future be worn with pride by the Chapter Sovereign.

H a v e y o u a n a r t i c l e f o r t h i s p a g e ?

MASONIC MISCELLANY

Notes From the Choir

The Choir was founded by W Bro Peter Sproule twenty years ago this year, and is still very active.

2004 began with a lecture -'The Tip of the Iceberg' for Kynaston Lodge No 5810 at Freemasons' Hall, Cambridge. In addition to their tremendous hospitality, they gave us a generous donation and invited us back again.

In April, with very reduced forces, the choir made a valuable contribution to the Consecration of Grand Junction Lodge No 9775.

In May, a small group of members joined with a roughly equal number from The Sheffield and District Choir to take part in the celebrations for Liberation Day in Guernsey. We sang a concert in St Martin's Lodge and the following evening a concert in The St James Concert Hall in St Peter Port, where our own wives and other supporters were joined by masons and their wives from across the island. It was a truly magnificent evening and will be long remembered. We hope to go to Guernsey again before long: the welcome is very warm indeed.

In July, a much larger group, with the additional help of seven of the Sheffield brethren who had asked if they could come, sang Choral Evensong and, later in the day, a splendid Concert of sacred and secular music in Hunstanton Parish Church. We raised over two hundred pounds for The Sandcastle, a local respite holiday centre for the severely disabled.

As I write, we are preparing Choral Evensong on 17th October for Daventry and District Masons. The Christmas Carol season is just round the corner and will include another trip to Hunstanton to lead a Service for local masons.

All in all, a hectic year. I am grateful for the wholehearted support of all my friends in the choir, to Margaret Sproule who plays for our practices and to W. Bro Bill Young who too often has to take the reins when my diary gets in a tangle. We all regularly follow our founder's advice: 'Enjoy yourselves!'. As we do so, we seek to enhance the reputation of the Province, of Masonry in general and to show Masonry at work in the community. Perhaps you could join us and grab some of the enjoyment for yourself. Go on! Give us a try!!!

Max Dolby.

Palmer Court - An Operative Mason

Trowel in hand, W Bro Michael Farrow of Risden Lodge No 6232 demonstrates his practical and professional expertise in building the stone walls forming the base for a new conservatory to extend the existing residents lounge at Palmer Court Sheltered Housing in Wellingborough.



The new stonework harmonises with that of the original grade two listed building following architect W Bro Robin Hitchcock's sympathetic design. The local house committee gratefully acknowledges the financial support given by the Trustees of the Douglas James Trust which has enabled the construction and furnishing of the new work without involving the Board of Masonic Charities Housing in any direct expense. However, the Board has recently purchased another property adjoining Palmer Court and will be exploring the possibility of the development of additional double flats for which there appears to be a need in the area. The local committee is very grateful for donations made by Lodges to their funds which are used for the entertainment and comfort of Palmer Court residents.

Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire Provincial Masonic Caravanning Association

The Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Caravan Association was set up for those Brethren their families (and pets) who wanted to get away for a number of informal weekends a year with like-minded people.

The sites initially picked were within a 60-mile radius of Northampton but this resulted in repeated visits to the same area. Thus the venues are now spread from York in the North East, and Brighton in the South with all points in between.

There are no formal meetings or prearranged activities, members tend to do their own things during the day and then meet up in the evening either for a barbecue (weather permitting) or for a meal at a local Hostelry.

Membership is not restricted just to those with Caravans. Owners of Motor Home and Trailer Tents are also very welcome. The Association is always looking for additional members, so, if you are interested, give the secretary W Bro W Young a call on (01933) 625151 or email: bill@young5359.fsnet.co.uk for further details.

Peterborough LAMS - Flower Festival

Calling All Flower Arrangers

The Peterborough LAMS Flower Festival will be held on the weekend of 5 & 6 June 2005 at Ellindon in Peterborough. Are you a Flower Arranger? Would you like to participate? Brethren and their Ladies are more than welcome to get involved. Contact Pam Harris on 01778 344300

It's Nice To Be Famous!



The picture shows a group of Towcester and Stoke Bruerne Masons visiting the Leinster Lodge, which meets at The Grand Lodge of Ireland. The trip was organised by W. Bro. Graham Minett. Among the group was our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Max Bayes, who on entering the Lodge was greeted as "So you are the famous Max Bayes". He was then introduced to a very eminent and elderly Mason who was a friend of his father, who was a significant figure in the Northampton Shoe Trade, and knew Max Bayes as a boy.

You'll never know what may prove to be of interest unless you submit it

Prominent Masons

Sixty Years in Freemasonry

Nelson (Bill) Piggott PPrGReg was initiated into Ubique in the East Lodge No 3338 in the District of Bombay (EC) in December 1944.

On leaving school Bill started his career in



the field of scientific instruments working for various leading companies in the navigation and aeronautical fields. He joined the RAOC at Woolwich at the beginning of WWII and trained on artillery fire control systems on completion of which he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. He was posted to India in October 1940 to work in the REME workshops in Bombay and promoted again to WO2. His army career culminated in his being reaching the rank of Sgt Major before being repatriated in March 1946.

Bill spent his working years up to retirement in 1983 as part of the Rank organization and moved to Hartford in 1984. He joined Samuel Pepys Lodge in 1985 and he became one of the initial joining members of Hinchingsbrooke Lodge in 1988 serving as Master in 1996 almost 40 years after his first time through the chair of Ubique, his Mother Lodge.

W Bro John Mapley PPrSGW (CoM)

Born in Newport Pagnall in May 1927 John Mapley was educated at Wolverton Technical College and the Army School of Education following which he spent nine years in the REME. After leaving the Army he progressed in his civilian career to become a Director of Granada plc.

John was initiated in Lodge of Amity No 5753 in the Essex Province in December 1963 and became its Worshipful Master in 1975; he became a joining member of John Pyel Lodge No 5195 and was its Master in 1998. He is still very active serving as Almoner of both Lodge of Amity and the Northants & Hunts Lodge of Installed Masters as well as being Secretary of Gates of Billing Lodge No 9309. In addition to his Craft Lodges John is a PPrGSN in the Royal Arch and obtained the 30th Degree in the Rose



Croix.

For the past 40 years John has been continuously in office in one or more Lodges and is to be heartily congratulated on obtaining his well earned Certificate of Merit.

W Bro Peter Jones APMG Wiltshire

W Bro Peter Jones is a member of two Lodges in this Province - Grey Friars 4990 and Sulgrave 9462. A number of years ago his day job took him to Wiltshire where he has been very active in local Freemasonry.

On Thursday, 4 October, 2004, on the occasion of the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire in Salisbury, he was installed as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire.

A number of Northamptonshire Brethren including the the Past Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Brian Smith, W Bro John Cox, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Revd Canon Frank Pickard and members of Grey Friars and Sulgrave Lodges attended the Installation. They were pleased to offer their sincere congratulations and support on this important day. The picture shows W Bro Peter Jones (centre of picture) with a number of the Northamptonshire Brethren.



50 years as a member of the Lodge of St. James No.6838

On the 5th November 1954, W Bro John Bennett, PJGD, was initiated in to the Lodge of St James. It was a coincidence that the 5th November 2004 fell on a Friday and as the Lodge meetings are always held in the first Friday of the month, John had served 50 years to the day. The Provincial Grand Master awarded W Bro John his Jubilee certificate which is normally presented at Lodge meetings. Unfortunately John is not in good health and as he spends his time at the Argyll House Nursing Home in Northampton, he could not attend the Lodge to be presented with his certificate.

So on the morning of 5th November, a small party visited John and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Max Bayes presented him with his certificate and a small libation that we were sure he would enjoy. John was very grateful for the visit and sent his best wishes to all in the Province, especially the members of the Lodge of St James.

The next Password is to be published in Autumn 2005, stories and photos of events can

COMMUNICATIONS

Prestonian Lecture 2004

Pomfret Lodge No. 360 opened up their regular December meeting to visitors from around the Province when they hosted the only presentation of the Prestonian Lecture 2004 in the Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire.



The official Prestonian Lecturer, W.Bro Trevor Stewart from County Durham, was delighted with the enthusiastic way he was received by a full house at St George's Avenue for the meeting and for the insightful questions posed to him afterwards at the Festive Board.

W.Bro Stewart had taken as his theme, "English Speculative Freemasonry: Some Possible Origins, Themes and Developments". His lively lecture was both stimulating and thought provoking. He suggested the Freemasonry we know today bears very little relationship to what early 'speculative' masons practiced in what he refers to as 'Stage 1'. He went on to explain it was the English Enlightenment gentlemen who met in London Lodges in the opening decades of the 18th century who provided the many themes from which William Preston - after whom the Prestonian Lecture is named - was able to draw and publish. W.Bro Stewart provided links to Isaac Newton, the Royal Society and many opinion formers of the period. He explained how Lodge meetings of the period spent much time studying and debating wide ranging topics of 'nature and science' and far less time than we do on degree ceremonies. This was the beginning of 'Stage 2'. But he suggests these early influencers could not have imagined their lively and experimental approach to Freemasonry would ultimately become locked into a concern with maintaining good form and status that characterises the Masonry we know today. W.Bro Stewart concluded by suggesting, "Perhaps we have forgotten the need to create opportunities for every member of our Lodges to make his 'daily advancement' in Masonic knowledge without necessarily being 'word perfect' in reciting texts". What of 'Stage 3'? W.Bro Stewart calls for us to appreciate the need to develop, change and improve our teachings and the modes of instruction used in our Lodges, to stimulate Brethren to take an active interest in the history and symbology of Freemasonry and create a sustainable process of self-improvement and growth that helps them meet the challenges of modern life. "I think William Preston and his contemporaries would be appalled by our ingrained lack of daring. I doubt very much if they thought that their 'Stage 2' should be set in concrete. Everything that is known of their splendid enterprise suggests that they thought it was something more dynamic and less restrictive than our present practices".

MUSICAL TALENT COMPETITION



Can you sing?. Do you enjoy performing live or with recorded musical accompaniment? The why not take part in a Musical Talent Competition on Saturday 7 May 2005 at Freemasons' Hall, Northampton.

Further details and Competition application forms can be obtained from Tony Potter (Kingsley Lodge) or Roger Rice (Lodge of St. James). The number of performers (groups or individuals) will be limited to about 12 and the audience will be the judges!.

If you would like to come along and enjoy the competition and a sausage and mash supper, send an email to Tony Pickering at tjpickering@hotmail.com or ring him on 01604-709151 to reserve your place. Tickets are priced at £10.00 each and all proceeds raised will go towards further refurbishment of Freemasons' Hall

William Preston (1742-1818), a very active Freemason at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries, developed an elaborate system of Masonic instruction, by means of catechetical lectures, which was practised in association with the Lodge of Antiquity of which he was, at one time, Master. At his death, he bequeathed to Grand Lodge the sum of £300, the interest from which was to be applied to some well informed Mason to deliver annually a Lecture on the First, Second or Third Degree of the Order of Masonry, according to the system practised in the Lodge of Antiquity during Preston's Mastership.

With occasional intermissions, lectures on his method were accordingly delivered from 1820 until 1862, when the Lectureship was allowed to lapse. In 1924 it was revived, with certain modifications of the original scheme: the lecturer delivering a paper on a Masonic subject of his own selection. The Prestonian Lecture is the only lecture held under the authority of the United Grand Lodge of England and, with the exception of the years 1940-46, regular appointments have been made annually since 1924 to the present day. The list of brethren so honoured and the titles of their lectures appear at the end of the Masonic Year Book.

W.Bro Trevor Stewart, the 2004 Prestonian Lecturer, is a retired college lecturer who was educated at Birmingham, Sheffield, Durham and Newcastle Universities. He has given lectures in Belgian, French and German and Scottish Lodges as well as to many English Lodges and RA Chapters. He is a PM of Thornhill Lodge (3216), The Vale of Derwent Lecture Lodge (9051), Quatuor Coronati Lodge (2076) and a Member of Lodge 'Sir Robert Moray' (1641, SC) in Edinburgh. He is a PZ of Thornhill RA Chapter. He has published several papers in the transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, the premier Lodge of Research.

W.Bro Stewart sold copies of his lecture on the evening and raised £300 for the Donna Claire Venture - a County Durham charity providing respite one-to-one care to adults who suffer from multiple disabilities.

be included by sending details through your local Information Officer (see yearbook)

MARATHONS 2004

The Centenary Meeting of Pemberton Lodge

The Centenary Meeting of Pemberton Lodge No.3039 was celebrated at the Masonic Hall, Wellingborough Road, Rushden on the 7th October 2004. The Lodge was honoured with the presence of RW Bro Nicolas Hart Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Barrie Hall PGStdBr Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro D.G.Young PSGD and W Bro Max W Bayes Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and other Officers of Grand Lodge.

The Minutes of the Consecration Meeting were read. The Provincial Grand Master Presented the Centenary Warrant to the Lodge to the Worshipful Master and then accepted a Centenary Jewel on behalf of the Province. W Bro R N Bedells PPrSGD, LGR. (Charity Steward) presented a donation of £1500.00 for the Provincial Grand Charity to the Provincial Grand Master who then expressed his intention mark this special occasion by promoting the Worshipful Master, W Bro R E J Dennis PPrGSupt Wks (Oxon) to PPrGSuptWks in this Province with immediate effect, (for once the Worshipful



Master was lost for words !!)

Following the meeting 107 brethren attended the Festive Board at which all members of Pemberton Lodge received a pair of goblets with a Centenary engraving commissioned by W Bro G.M.Skoyles PPrSGW. (Secretary). The Worshipful Master presented the Provincial Grand Master with two pairs of goblets one for the Province and one for himself. W Bro D.G.Young PSGD. Assistant Provincial Grand Master accepted a cheque for

£700.00 in aid of the Provincial Grand Charity (TLC).

To enable the member's ladies to participate in the Centenary celebrations of the Lodge an informal and relaxing "Brethren and their Ladies" evening was enjoyed by all at the Tudor Gate Hotel on Saturday 16th October. W Bro M J D Condon (Almoner) arranged for a bouquet of flowers to be delivered to the widows of members of the Lodge.

Happy Hatton Hits the 100 Mark

On the 1st November last Hatton Lodge 3041, having been consecrated on 31st October 1904, celebrated its Centenary almost to the day. The Provincial Grand Master the RW Bro Nicolas Hart, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the VW Bro Barrie Hall, both the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W Bros Derek Young and Max Bayes and the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Norman Coulson together with eight other Grand Officers and numerous Present and Past Provincial Officers were in attendance and were warmly welcomed by the Worshipful Master Bro Roy Gallagher.

The meeting, was attended by eighteen Past Masters of the Lodge and attracted a total of ninety four brethren including members of Hatton Lodges' sponsoring lodge Wentworth 737, members of the Wellingborough Sister Lodges and guests from other Provinces including Norfolk, Warwickshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and from London. The minutes of the consecration were read and during the ceremony W Bro Brian Huckle,

PAGDC gave an interesting talk on the founding of the Lodge and an insight on some of the prominent Past Masters. W Bro Tony Avery, Provincial Grand Chaplain, then gave an oration and blessing. Both speakers were well received by the brethren. The Provincial Grand



Master presented the Worshipful Master with a Centenary Warrant for the Lodge,

and then proceeded to present the Worshipful Master with a Centenary Jewel. The Worshipful Master reciprocated by presenting the Provincial Grand Master (an honorary member of the Lodge) with a similar Jewel as a keepsake by which to remember the evening. The remaining Brethren of the Lodge were then permitted to display their own Centenary Jewels. The Worshipful Master then presented three goblets suitably engraved to mark the occasion, which were received on behalf of the Lodge by the Senior Steward Bro Robin Orr; these will be used by the Master and his Wardens at future Festive Boards. Following the ceremony a good Festive Board, at which the Provincial Grand Master proposed a toast to the Lodge, was enjoyed by all present. The Worshipful Master made a suitable reply to the toast to the Lodge after which he presented the Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £1,000 made payable to the Provincial Grand Charity. A commemorative booklet outlining the history of the Lodge and an engraved whiskey glass were presented as keepsakes to all of those in attendance.

MORE MASONIC MISCELLANY

New Motorcyclists Lodge Consecrated

On 16 February 2005, the Provincial Grand Master assisted by the Deputy PGM, VW Bro Barrie Hall consecrated the new Graham Milton Lodge at Freemasons Hall, Northampton.

With growing interest in motorcycles amongst many members of the Craft, a group of motorcyclists and enthusiasts from within the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and its surrounds called a series of meetings and decided to form a Lodge for motorcyclists and those interested in motorcycling. Its primary objective is to sustain and extend, through the medium of Freemasonry, the bonds which so many Brethren already enjoy from within the motorcycling fraternity.

The Lodge will meet at the Masonic Hall, Thrapston, this being a convenient location in the centre of the Province and well served by a good local road

network.

The late W Bro Graham Milton was a Past Master of Chicheley Lodge No 607 meeting at Thrapston. He was a lifelong member of the motorcycling fraternity, respected by all as a competitive rider and a skilful design engineer. He won many championship events both in the UK and the Continent. He was a regular competitor in 'TT' events and riding sidecar and his record for the first lap of the Isle of Man Circuit in a sidecar combination at over 100mph still stands. He did much to encourage younger riders with an enthusiasm which he readily brought into his Masonic involvement. At 65 years of age, he passed to the Grand Lodge above in June 2001.

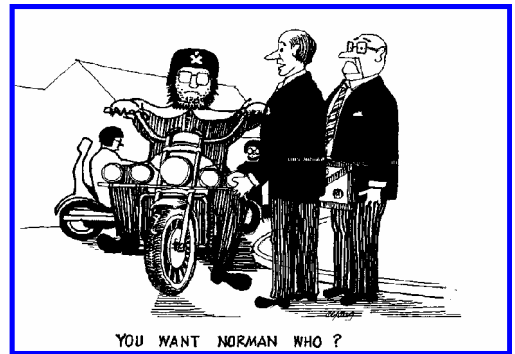
His son, Bro Robin Milton, a Founder member of the new Lodge is shown with the Provincial Grand Master and the first Master of the new Lodge, W Bro Norman Coulson.



Northants & Warwicks Air Ambulance



The Northants & Warwicks Air Ambulance has benefited for the generosity of a number of donations from Lodges. The picture shows the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Barry Hall presenting a cheque for £2300 to a smiling representative of the Northants and Warwicks Air Ambulance. The total was made up by donations from De La Pre and Pemberton Lodges as well as the Provincial Grand Charity and is in addition to earlier donations from Heigham, John Pyel and Risdene Lodges.



New Scout Lodge ?

The continued development and success of Special Interest Lodges is clear for all to see within our Province. From joint ventures with brethren in USA (Sulgrave) and Portugal (Oldest Ally) to music (Pro Musica), Research (Richard Sandbach) and more recently rugby football (Webb Ellis) and narrow boating (Grand Junction), all report sustained growth. February saw the consecration of a motorcyclists lodge (Graham Milton) and a third daylight lodge is soon to appear in Peterborough. Thoughts have recently been revisited to the possible formation of a Scouting Lodge in the Province. Northamptonshire County Scouts have a significant number of brethren occupying various offices from County Commissioner, Chairman and vice Chairman, Treasurer, Manager of the County Centre Committee and numerous warranted commissioner and leader roles.



If you are interested in becoming involved in the formation of such a new lodge, please contact W Bro Ken Briers on 01604 648680 or email kj.briers@virgin.net

Interest in themed Lodges has blossomed

GRASS ROOT NEWS

W.Bro Paul Anderson PAGDC



W.Bro Paul Anderson, who died on 14th January, 2005, at the age of 89 years, was known throughout this Province and well beyond as a dedicated Freemason. He achieved high ranks in Craft Masonry and allied degrees.

In recent years Paul suffered debilitating illness, but in February 2004, after a long absence, he made a memorable - and some thought almost super human - return to his beloved St Ivo Lodge to give the address to his son, Richard, when installed as Worshipful Master. The silence after that perfect presentation was

broken with unusual but deserved applause - and many brethren admitted that special moment brought tears to their eyes.

Paul was initiated into St Ivo Lodge in 1957 and 10 years later became Worshipful Master, he then held office as Director of Ceremonies for many years. Province rewarded his ability with the office of Junior Grand Warden. Then in 1980 came Grand Rank with a first appointment of PAGDC. He represented the Provincial Grand Master at many lodges in the Province. There were many proud times such as when he saw his son (W.Bro Richard Anderson), stepson (W.Bro Dale Cobb) and grandson (Bro Jason Cobb) initiated into Freemasonry.

He was a founder and the first Master of Sothius Lodge at its consecration in 1977. He was a founder of Meridian Lodge at Huntingdon and a member of The Lodge of Installed Masters; becoming its Master in 1989. He became a member of St Ivo Chapter in 1959 and held office as MEZ in 1971 and 1972; he was then Scribe E

for several years. He was honoured with Provincial rank of Past Grand Scribe N. and then Grand Chapter rank in 1984. For many years he served on the St Ives Masonic Management Committee. His kindly advice and guidance to younger brethren as St Ivo Lodge Preceptor, made a lasting impression on the minds of many younger Brethren. Paul held Grand Rank or the equivalent in the degrees of Mark Master Masons, the Royal Ark Mariners, and Knights Templar.

Paul, an ardent ritualist, appeared to have an ability to learn his words with apparent ease; but if anyone suggested he had a photographic memory he would quickly tell them that he was no different to others and that his real secret was sheer hard work and dedication!

These words are but a brief appreciation of the Masonic life of a Brother who many counted a dear Masonic friend. It is, however, certain that his commitment has gained him the highest respect and affection in many lodges. His influence and usefulness to Masonry will long be remembered.

W Bro Ken Winchcombe PPrGSwdB

The Province was saddened to hear of the recent passing of one of life's gentlemen - W Bro Ken Winchcombe who was initiated into Forum Lodge No 3537 (London) on 1st December 1962 and subsequently joined Spelhoe Lodge No 8576 in Northampton in 1983.

Ken was noted as a willing brother who would do anything to assist and his forte

was stewarding. Whilst he would never claim to be a ritualist, Ken fully understood the principles on which our order is founded and he fulfilled his role as Charity Steward in Spelhoe Lodge in his own special way. He was appointed Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 2002 and felt greatly honoured in May 2004 when asked to carry the Chain of Office in procession at the Installation of W Bro Max Bayes as Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

As illustrated by the number of brethren who attended the memorial service in Milton Keynes on 17th September Ken was highly regarded in all his masonic connections.

Rumour has it that Spelhoe Past Masters, W Bros John Fisher, Derryl Ellis, Leo Verden, Michael Blason, Bill Wright, Brian Rogers and Gerry Foulds welcomed Ken to the Grand Lodge above and immediately appointed him Steward.

A CHANGE OF STYLE FOR PASSWORD

You may note that in this issue of Password there is a slightly different style from that with which you have become familiar over the years. These changes have come about mainly from comments received during the survey conducted early last year but they needed the right moment to introduce. The opportunity to take a view on how to implement the desired changes stemmed largely from a change of editorship coupled with the Communications Committee seeking ways to ensure that the Password represented value to the Province whilst still reflecting, as far as possible, the expressed views of the majority of the membership to provide a medium for sharing items of interest throughout the Province.

Northants & Hunts Diary of Events

14 April 2005	Consecration of Crux Rubra Conclave Peterborough
16 April 2005	Provincial Priory of Knights Templar Kettering
7 May 2005	Musical Talent Competition Northampton
12 May 2005	Divisional Conclave Red X of Constantine Leicester
14 May 2005	District Grand Council Royal & Select Masters Corby
19 May 2005	Provincial Grand Lodge Northampton
25 May 2005	Three Counties Lodge - Promotions Meeting Northampton
6 June 2005	Masonic Flower Festival by Peterborough LAMS
23 June 2005	Provincial Grand Chapter Northampton
25 June 2005	Mark Provincial Grand Lodge Corby
29 October 2005	Mark Provincial Grand Ball Northampton

The decision gave an opportunity to take a fresh look and incorporate changes which I trust will make for an easier read and will suit the majority of tastes. I sincerely hope that most of you will feel that we have achieved the Committee's objectives.

Please remember that to make Password a continuing success we need your inputs, fed through your local Information Officer (details in the year book), on any issues that you feel will interest members throughout the Province.

Your Password needs you; keep the news coming in!

CHARITY NEWS

Lodge of Harmony No 9048 Summer Barbecue

W. Master Ross Yeo and his wife Valerie held a summer BBQ in the grounds of their home at the end of August for Lodge members, their partners and guests. Whilst the weather was not the best, the welcome was warm and a professional chef and supporting team dealt up an excellent meal. Guests paid a small admission fee and as a result the event raised a superb £680 for charity.



£3000 donation to Multiple Sclerosis

Following the lead of outgoing master Ross Yeo, Brethren of the Lodge of Harmony 9048 agreed to donate £3000 to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The funds were donated specifically to cover the refurbishment of a wet room in a holiday respite home run by a local branch of the society. Funds were raised throughout Ross's mastership from a variety of events. In the enclosed photo, Ross is seen presenting the cheque for £3000 to Rosalind Gibson, Treasurer of the Northampton & District Branch of the MS Society watched by Diana Beasley, Secretary of the Holiday Homes section. Diana advised that the home had already been booked for 35 weeks next year and the refurbishment would help ease the problems of many MS sufferers.



Toseland Lodge Charity 2004

The St Neots based Freemasons of Toseland Lodge, this year raised and donated £5,750 for national and local charities of which £2500 went to the Provincial Grand Charity, £500 was donated to the RMBI, £500 went to the Royal Masonic Trust for Boys and Girls,

£1250 went to the Special Care Baby Unit at Peterborough, £500 to the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy unit in Huntingdon, and £500 was donated to the St John's Ambulance Cadets in St Neots.

The picture shows W Bro Bob Barnes, the Lodge Secretary, presenting the cheque to Member in Charge Sharon Cragg, surrounded by a number of the cadets.

Music to EACH'S Ears ?



At the end of the last season, W Bro Johnny Harris, accompanied by W Bro Peter Wright, presented a welcome cheque for £1000 on behalf of Pro Musica Lodge to Mrs Marjorie, House Matron of the East Anglia Children's Hospices (EACH) to support their work in support of terminally ill children the region.

Charitable Hatton

The Worshipful Master of Hatton Lodge 3041 W Bro Roy Gallagher would like to thank the lodge brethren for their generosity during his year in office. A sum nearing £7,800 has been raised through collections, lodge raffles and social events which has allowed the Master to donate sums to three hospices, the Cynthia Spencer, the Cransley, and East Anglian Children's Hospice. Local charities such as Wellingborough Talking newspapers, Wilby Riding for The Disabled, Palmer Court,

Eleanor Cross Lodge No 1764



A cheque for £450 was recently presented to Dr Haines of the Haematology Department at Northampton General Hospital towards the cost of essential refurbishment work shortly to be undertaken. The then WM, W Bro Ron Haynes has been a regular visitor to the department over the past 12 years and is seen here making the presentation.

The money was raised at the Ladies Festival and supplemented from the Master's List.

Please keep the information coming on your Lodges Charity efforts. Let your local Information Officer know what you want included in Password

THIS SPACE COULD BE SELLING FOR YOU!

If you or anyone you know would like to advertise their company's services or products within this publication either as a one-off or as a series, please contact the Editor of the Password.

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The good work continues; keep it up!

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

The "X Factor" is sought in Northampton

A new amateur musical talent contest named "In the Spotlight" will be staged at the Northampton Masonic Hall on Saturday 7th May. Contestants are invited from in or outside Masonic circles as long as they are over 18 ideally sponsored and supported by our Brethren friends and families on the night. The winner will receive a trophy which is being made and donated by W Bro Rawley Jones of Kingsley Lodge No. 2431 and will be

fought on an annual basis with runners-up trophies for 2nd and 3rd places.

Tickets for the event cost £10 which includes supper and funds raised from the event are to go to the St Georges Centre refurbishment plus there will be a collection for the "Children in Need" appeal.

For competition entry and/or tickets please contact Bro Tony Potter on 01604 767080 or W Bro Roger Rice on 01604 648603. Further details are posted at St Georges Ave.

Annual Santa Cruise and Party

With the assistance of Towcester Freemasons, entertained children suffering from Cancer related illnesses with a Santa Cruise in early December departing from The Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne.



After being collected from Northampton General Hospital by an historic coach they arrived in Stoke Bruerne and boarded the narrowboat, "Indian Chief", for a tunnel cruise with music, drinks, mince pies and Christmas crackers to Blisworth where Santa joined the boat for the return journey and distributed presents. Thanks to the

Daventry based children's charity "Helping Hands", and Freemasons from Lodges based in Towcester and Stoke Bruerne the children enjoyed a wonderful afternoon's trip with food and soft drinks served at The Boat Inn before their return to Hospital.

Macmillan Nurses Benefit

W. Bro Geoff Bollard is seen below presenting a cheque for £500 to Donna Little of the Macmillan Nurses on behalf of the Northants & Hunts Mark Benevolent Association and of W Bro Dennis Stewart of Rockingham Lodge.



Provincial Carol Service in Peterborough Cathedral

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Derek Young told Password. "I am delighted that so many Brethren their families and friends came to support the Provincial Carol Service at Peterborough Cathedral on Sunday 12th December. It has now become a tradition to start our Christmas season. The whole service was very good and we all appreciated the singing of the Cathedral Choir. We are most fortunate to have such a superb Cathedral in our Province" Seen below with the Asst PGM are W Bro Tony Avery, PrGChap, and Mrs Ann Looker.



CLASSIC CAR RALLY

Several members from the Province participated in the Masonic Classic Car Run on 6th June 2004. The event was organised by Somerset Lodges and sponsored by Central Regalia Ltd. Over £1,000 was raised by the Towcester contingent and the proceeds were shared by The Provincial Grand Charity and "When you wish upon a star".

The photo shows three intrepid ralliers with their steeds prior to starting the run



Northampton LAMS

Northampton LAMS enjoyed a very successful conclusion to their year with membership now reaching 100. Around 60 people regularly attend the monthly coffee morning at St. George's Avenue on the first Wednesday of the month, and they are always pleased to welcome new members.

The LAMS enjoyed a variety of trips and activities, including a Carol Service, trips to the Milton Keynes Theatre, Christmas shopping in Birmingham, and regular luncheon meetings. At the October luncheon they listened to an informative and revealing talk on "Crystals and Colours" given by Mrs Joan Sculpher. A beautiful hand-knitted blanket, made and donated by Shirley Watson, was raffled, raising £112. This was won by Margaret Williams, who immediately returned the blanket for auction, resulting in a further £35 being raised. These two amounts will swell the Chairman's chosen Charity, The Princess Diana Air Ambulance. Seen here with the blanket are Mrs Joan Sculpher (left), Margaret Williams (centre) and Shirley Watson (right).



Password Needs Your Inputs!

Please keep the Information Officer in your area informed of any items that you think may be of interest Province wide. Without you we would not be able to provide the sort of magazine we understand you all want.

Next issue is due in the Autumn so keep the material coming in.